

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 21, 2001 with claims 1-24. Claims 1-24 have been canceled, and claims 25-44 have been added. Claims 25, 36, and 41-44 are the pending independent claims

In the outstanding Office Action dated September 22, 2004, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and (ii) rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,905,973 to Yonezawa et al. (hereinafter "Yonezawa").

With regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), claims 1-24 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1-24 are considered moot in view of the cancellations, and therefore, it is respectfully requested that the §112, second paragraph, §102(b) rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding new claims 25-44, Applicants respectfully assert that Yonezawa fails to disclose the claim limitations of such claims.

For example, independent claim 25 recites a method for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network. A print request is received from a client computer at a printing provider computer. A data file associated with the print request is obtained from a data provider computer at the printing provider computer. The printing provider computer requests the printing of the data file and the dispatching of the printed data file to a client. Independent claims 41 and 42 recite similar limitations.

Further, independent claim 36, recites a method for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network. A search process is initialized at a data provider computer in response to a request from a client computer for a data file. Search results of the search process are transmitted from the data provider computer to the client computer. A data file transmission request is received at the data provider computer from a printing provider computer. The printing provider computer was associated with the search results and contacted by the client computer. A data file is transmitted from the data provider computer to the printing provider computer in response to the

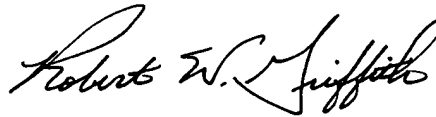
data file transmission request for printing of the data file at a printing provider and delivery of the printed data file to a client. Independent claims 43 and 44 recite similar limitations.

Yonezawa fails to disclose techniques for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network. Yonezawa also fails to disclose each of the limitations recited in the independent claims above. Further, relating to prior art made of record as cited by the Examiner, Applicants assert that U.S. Patent No. 6,659,662 to Grohs is not prior art.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 25, 36 and 41-44 are patentable over the cited reference. In addition, Applicants submit that claims 26-35 and 37-40 are patentable over the cited reference not only due to their respective dependence on claims 25 and 36 but also because such claims recite patentable subject matter in their own right.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 25-44 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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